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PHILADELPHIA.

THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT. Whateven may be the fate of the multitude of public documents which accompany President Grant's second annual message to Congress, the message itself has doubtless received by this time the full attention that its importance, real or imaginary, demands, To avoid the possibility of premature publication, the President refused to entrust the precious document to the public printer's hands, and the representatives of the press were kept at a distance until it was actually transmitted to both houses of Congress, This made it necessary to forward the message to all parts of the country by telegraph, and it has doubtless suffered somewhat by the process, as far as smoothness is concerned, by reason of the great haste that was demanded to satisfy the anxiety of the public. But, making due allowance for this unavoidable difficulty, the document is a plain, sensible, straightforward, unpretentious, and well-written one, and will compare favorably with similar state papers emanating from the Executive Mansion in times past.

Happily for the people of the United States, the country has now so far recovered from the depression and disorganization resulting from the war of the Rebellion, that President Grant was able to devote the greater portion of his message to our relations with foreign countries and questions of an international character, and that without ignoring, except in a few instances, home questions which demanded his attention, There could be no more striking illustration of the elasticity and perfection of our system of government than circumstance. Only five years have elapsed since the last army of the Southern Confederacy laid down its arms, and within that brief period the great work of rehabilitation has been fairly accomplished, the only thing remaining to render the work complete being the election of Representatives to Congress in a single State. When Georgia is fully restored to her normal position in the Union, the task will be accomplished, and, as the President aptly remarks, there will then be "no reason why we should not advance in national prosperity and happiness as no other nation did after so protracted and devastating a war."

THE MESSAGE AND THE PRESI-DENT'S POLICY.

ALTHOUGH we are happily almost relieved finally and forever of the vexed question of reconstruction, the great burden of debt which is the most pertinent legacy of the rebellion remains; and it is impossible for either the President or the people to ignore it and the necessities to which it gives rise. The paramount necessity of meeting promptly all the demands made upon the national treasury by the nation's creditors is the basis of the only national policy that can be adopted by the Government with safety. The debt of the nation must be paid, interest and principal, dollar for dollar, as it falls due. Repudiation, in any of its forms or phases, is so utterly repugnant to the American people that no demagogue can hold his own on such a platform. The existence of this debt will render imperatively necessary a large revenue for years to come, and the manner of raising this revenue is to be the point on which the paramount national issues of the next quarter of a century must hinge. Every question becomes subservient to the one grand question of a revenue sufficiently large to maintain intact the financial credit of the country. The most rigid economy on the part of every branch of the public service is imperatively demanded by the exigencies of the national situation, and on this point the President takes decided ground. Another position which he assumes is the necessity for "a reduction of interest account," by which, we take it, he refers to such a consolidation of our forms of indebtedness as will reduce the annual interest on the debt to the lowest figure consistent with national honesty and national safety. "Revenue reform," says, the President, "if it means this, has my hearty support." But the President, in common with the people of the country, is in doubt as to what is meant by the demagogues who are clamoring for "revenue reform," and he protests earnestly and forcibly against any attempt to cripple the resources, industries, and credit of the country by the pernicious doctrine of free trade, or the attempt to impose all the burdens of the war upon the people by direct taxation, for the benefit of foreign manufacturers.

In the closing paragraph of the message, the President enunciates clearly what he regards as the true policy of the country. It is satisfactory, as far as it goes, but there is cause for regret that he does not dwell with more force and detail upon the absorbing question of administrative reform. He demands a 'reform in the whole civil service of the country," but gives us no justification of the neglect on his part to attempt seriously its inauguration; he advocates a reduction of taxation, "so arranged as to afford relief to the greatest number," but, unhappily, has not a word to say against the obnoxious and inquisitorial income tax, the continuance of which he again endorses by his silence on the subject. On these two points the country will justly express dissatisfaction, and demand, before many days, decided action by Congress, even at the expense of a rupture, more or less serious, with the Executive.

It cannot be denied that the course of the administration has not received the full endorsement of the party which placed it in

power, and the result of the recent Congres- | sional elections has given an unmistakable evidence of the dissatisfaction which prevails. President Grant stands on perilous ground. He has failed, in many respects, to meet the expectations which were justly formed at the beginning of his administration; and this failure has been, in great measure, the result of the shiftless policy which he has pursued in the matter of the civil service. From the heads of departments down to the most insignificant positions, he has not selected, or caused to be selected, a class of men that merits and receives the confidence of the peeple. He has been too vindictive, has displayed too much petty animosity, has too often attempted to strengthen himself by unwise removals and improper appointments. But it is not too late for him to rally around himself the honest masses of the great party which elevated him to power, and the serious inroads made upon the Republican majority in the next Congress by Democrats, freetraders, and so-called revenue reformers, make it necessary for the President forthwith to cease his warfare upon any portion of the voters who placed him at the head of the Government. The Democratic party, encouraged by dissensions in the Republican camp, is already rallying for the Presidential campaign of 1872. In the preliminary skirmishes, our antagonists have gained serious advantages. The mission of the great Republican party is not yet at an end; it is the real party of progress, the true party of "moral ideas." By a united front alone can it stem the adverse tide which has already set in, and a united front it is very far from presenting at present. For the dissensions which prevail, the President is in great measure responsible. It is around him that we must rally, if we would maintain our own. Therefore, we cry-a truce to all bickerings among ourselves! Let us have

THE NATIONAL FINANCES. THE Report of the Secretary of the Treasury is a methodical, business-like document, which will have a good influence in maintaining public confidence in the financial condition of the country and in inspiring the belief that no hazardous experiments are likely to be attempted at the present session of Congress. Mr. Boutwell's statements and recommendations are, in a general sense, so satisfactory that he leaves little to desire except an advocacy of the abolition of the relics of the odious income tax; and if he had inserted a brief paragraph favoring this just reform his report would have been a model document. Although the attempt to fund the debt at a reduced rate of interest under the act passed at the last session of Congress has failed, for obvious reasons, the national credit has in no wise been injuriously affected by this failure. A nation that appropriated a surplus of more than \$100,000,000 to the payment of the principal of its debt last year, and that will have a surp'us of nearly \$70,000,000 this year, in spite of large reductions of taxation, rapidly increases its credit by such exhibits; and if Congress authorizes the proposed new loan of \$300,000,000 at five per cent., the interest to be paid quarterly, there can be little doubt that this will be taken, even if a continuance of European distractions confines the bidders exclusively to citizens of our own country. Of the general position of the public debt the Secretary gives a graphic and satisfactory view in his statement that "\$800,000,000 will remain unpaid, existing either in the form of Treasury notes in circulation without interest, or in bonds owned by the banks and held as security for the redemption of their notes, and that only about \$1,600,000,000 of the debt is subject to payment." Considering the magnitude of the obligations created

THE MESSAGE ON OUR FOREIGN

by the war, the fact that they have already

been narrowed down to these proportions af-

fords a wonderful proof of the wealth, wis-

dom, and integrity of the American people.

RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE takes a firm, decided, and dignified stand on the many complicated questions which arise out of our relations with foreign powers. Most of these demand more than the passing notice which we can now give them. The San Domingo question, especially, is one which merits most serious attention on the part of Congress and the people. As this matter stood at the close of the last session of Congress, the whole thing looked very much like a "job." But the arguments which the President brings to bear upon the advisability of acquiring a permanent foothold in the West Indies are extremely powerful, and as it is possible for the United States to obtain possession of San Domingo without being outrageously swindled, we trust that his recommendations will receive the attention

On the Alabama claims question the President has but little to say. The issue is at a stand-still, and the action of Great Britain is awaited before any decided movement is made. But the country will not look with favor upon the President's recommendation that the Government buy up all the private claims against Great Britain. There is no necessity for such a course, there is no good precedent for it, and the imperative necessity for curtailing our national expenses in every possible way will not permit its contempla-

ADMIRAL PORTER AS A LETTER-WRITER.

ADMIRAL PORTER has made an addition to the long list of worthies who have damaged themselves by indiscreet letters. His official position at the present moment is peculiar. He has been considered the confidential naval friend of the President, and is popularly credited with the unusual honor of being able to rnn the Navy Department according to his private notions. After the death of Admiral Farragut a new seal was placed upon his lofty pretensions by his appointment as successor of the heroic captor of New Orleans and Mobile, and if this appointment is sent to the

Senate and confirmed by that body, Porter | of the territory south of the river ought to will gain permanent possession of the highest of naval positions. But also for the vanity of human ambition! At this oritical juncture old Grandfather Welles is cruel enough to send to the mischievous New York World a letter written by Porter, dated January 21, 1865, shortly after the capture of Fort Fisher, - which contains sundry ill-natured complaints of the conduct of Grant. It gives full vent to the spirit of jealousy cherished by a portion of the navy against the army. It alleges that Grant "is always willing to take the credit when anything is done;" that he did not properly acknowledge the assistance rendered by the navy in capturing Vicksburg; that "he wants magnanimity," and "is so avarieious, as regards fame, that he will never, if he can help it, do justice" to the Navy Department; that he had acted unhandsomely in connection with the Fort Fisher affair by suffering Butler to have anything to do with it; that his course proves that he would sacrifice his best friend rather" than let any odium fall on Lieutenant-General Grant," and that he will take the credit for the final capture of Fort Fisher, "when he deserves all the blame for the first failure to take the place.'

When this letter first appeared it was announced by the publication of a series of extracts from Porter's private diary, which were produced to prove that Porter thought Grant and Sherman not only great generals, but very good men, etc. This, however, does not seem to have been sufficient, and Admiral now acknowledges, over own hand, the genuineness the letter to Welles, and explains it by the assertion that at the time it was written his mind and body were harassed by extraordinary fatigue, and that he has since entirely forgotten that he had ever given utterance to such petulant sentiments, The necessity of this explanation is manifasted by the statement it contains, that Grant was so unfavorably impressed by the World's publication as to declare that it made him lose faith in human nature; we can scarcely wonder that lowered the Presidential faith in candidates for first-class naval honors. It remains to be seen what will be the upshot of the World's disclosure; but it would not be surprising if it should lead either to Porter's rejection by the Senate, or to an abolition of the grade of Admiral in the navy, or to both, and Porter stands a fair chance of losing by the maladroit labors of his pen the honors he had so nearly secured by the achievements of his sword.

THE MESSAGE ON OUR CANADIAN

NEIGHBORS. THE President uses very decided language in regard to our difficulties with Canada on the subjects of the fisheries and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence river; and we believe | a healthy condition. Sold by all Druggists. that this portion of his message will be cordially endorsed by the whole country. There is a point where patience ceases to be a virtue, and it is certainly high time that our Government should adopt a line of policy that will settle the points of controversy with our semi-British neighbors in a manner that will prevent any reasonable pretext for difficulty in the future. The President correctly designates the Dominion Government as a semiindependent but irresponsible agent. It the power to inflict injury upon us, while we are obliged to apply for redress in London instead of Ottawa-a position of affairs that is likely to be a source of trouble so long as it continues; and it is a serious question whether the United States, for their own protection, have not a right to demand that the Dominion of Canada shall either be erected into a completely independent State or else that it shall be deprived of the power of exciting the animosities of its neighbors and then appealing to the mother country for assistance in case it is threatened. In nearly every controversy the United States have had with Great Britain concerning her claims upon this continent, we have, in the interest of peace, yielded more than dignity and justice demanded, and it is time now that our rights were asserted in a more positive manner than they ever have been before. In regard to the fishing dispute there is no difficulty whatever, except such as has been created by the Canadians themselves, and the whole matter could be settled satisfactorily if the Dominion Government or Great Britain were disposed to carry out the provisions of the convention of 1818 in good faith. In order to compel the United States to renew the reciprocity treaty that was discontinued on account of Canadian bad faith during the Rebellion, the "Bluenoses" have revived the fishing dispute solely for the purpose of annoying us and forcing us to come to terms. and, for the same reason, they have attempted to control the navigation of the St. Lawrence river in such a way as to impede our commerce. The President says plainly that in case any attempt is made to confiscate United States fishing vessels under the Canadian statute authorizing such proceeding in event of trespass, under their interpretation of the convention of 1818, it will become his duty to take such steps as may be necessary to protect the rights of the citizens of the United States. This language is certainly plain enough for the most obtuse "Bluenose" or "John Bull" to understand, and the President, in using it, we are convinced expresses the sentiments of a large majority of the people of the

United States. In regard to the free navigation of the St. Lawrence the President demonstrates that, not only by treaty but by recognized international law, the United States are entitled to use the river as a highway without impediment, and that the Dominion authorities have no right to interfere with the navigation of our vessels except by such police regulations as are absolutely necessary for their own protection. We have more than once alluded to the necessity for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence being at the command of the United States, and to ensure this the whole

be in our possession. This is an even more important subject than the fishery question, and the President has done well in alluding to it if only for the purpose of attracting to it the attention it deserves and exciting discussion that may lead to important results.

SOUTH CAROLINA FRAUDS. Hon. C. C. Bowen, Republican M. C. from the Charleston district, South Carolina, and the regular Republican candidate at the late elections, has furnished the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune a sorry picture of carpet-bag management of elections. Mr. Bowen was opposed by De Zarge, a colored irregular candidate, who has been returned as elected by some 600 majority, and Mr. Bowen will contest the seat. His report of the ballot-stuffing by the election officers, if approaching the truth, shows that South Carolina is given over as a prey to anarchy, and needs rather more regeneration and watching than New York city or Norfolk. The following is Mr. Bowen's statement as given in the Tribune:-

"He says that the worst election frauds in New York are not to be compared with those perpetrated in every part of South Carolina. The State election law, which was enacted last March, affords every facility to dishonest managers and supervisors of election. By its provisions the Governor is directed to appoint in each county a supervisor of elections, who in turn, appoints three managers in each class. who, in turn, appoints three managers in each elec-tion precinct. After the poils are closed, the mana-gers are allowed to have the custody of the ballotgers are allowed to have the custody of the ballot-boxes for three days, at the end of which time they must make a return. In many cases in South Caro-lina the managers of election were candidates for the Legislature or for county offices, and could, therefore, during the three days that the ballots were in their possession fix them to suit themselves. Mr. Bowen says that he can prove that in many precincts the ballots cast by the people were taken from the boxes by the managers, and others substituted for them before the count was made, and that when it was found that even then their opponents would not be defeated, they scratched the names of the latter from the ballots in other districts, and substi-tuted those of their own candidates. The only place in South Carolina where an honest election was held was Charleston, and there it took place under the provisions of the new United States election law. provisions of the new United States election law. In 1868, Mr. Bowen's majerity in Charleston was about 1600. This year it was more than 3000, and yet, so great were the frauds in the country, that he was 'counted out.' He estimates his rightful majority at about 10,000. He thinks the Republican majority in the State is about 3000. The majority returned is about 30,000. The people of South Carolina are very indignant that they have no redress, and Mr. Bowen doubts if the State will go Republican at the next election." can at the next election."

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